

CORONA

TS/COR-0352

25 Feb 1959

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MFR, Trip Report

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"The first CORONA launching is now scheduled for 20 May 1959. Leading up to that will be an engineering launch on 25 Feb 1959 and a bio-med launching in March and April. The malfunction on first engineering test on 21 Jan has been considered as one of the two engineering tests. Even though an actual launching was not made, there was sufficient information gained to have made this of considerable benefit. Lockheed has developed a crash program which may be instituted in an attempt to recover some of the lost time. However, no definite schedule other than two per month beyond May has been projected.

There is to be a recovery test south of Hawaii on 26 February. This will involve dropping two nose cones from a B-47. One will be dropped so as to land in the water near one of the three destroyers which are participating and the other drop will be for air pick-up.

It is expected that through this exercise there will be developed the final arrangements for secure handling of the recovered nose cone through delivery to EK. Lockheed has manufactured 40 recovery cans and has sent 14 to Hawaii for placement aboard all recovery vehicles.

NRO review(s) completed

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